ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A color image processing apparatus having at least patch image output units which output patch image data, based on patch data in a storage area, a patch data

5   extractor which extracts read patch data by reading a patch image formed according to the patch image data, using a color scanner, a patch data processor which estimates the record gradation of patch data, based on the read patch data, and a gradation corrector which

10   corrects a given color image signal, based on the estimated record gradation and patch data. The apparatus provides gradation correction based on gradation estimated from patch data, thus making it possible to reproduce gradation and color well.